



City Connection

August 2006
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Spotlight on Parks

FOREST HILLS PARK

Forest Hills Park is a neighborhood park located between Willow Bend and Pineview Streets in the Forest Hills Subdivision. This 0.6 acre park features picnic tables and playground equipment. This park was dedicated as part of the subdivision in 1974.



The address is 130 Pine Valley Drive.

Visit the Park and Recreation Website for a complete listing of parks
www.huntsvilletx.gov

rkader@huntsvilletx.gov

UPDATE



HUNTSVILLE HORIZON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

With the Huntsville Horizon Comprehensive Plan kickoff sessions and small focus group sessions behind us, we turn our attention now to the Ward Congress sessions to be conducted in each ward during the month of September 2006.

To confirm your ward, please go to the city web site at: www.huntsvilletx.gov and click the (Wards/Voting) link, under Quick Links, or call the City Secretary or her assistant at (936) 291-5403/5413 for assistance.

The Ward 1 Congress will take place at the Walker Education Center from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM on Thursday,

September 7, 2006. Councilmember Jim Willett at (936) 295-0434 or hlwjww@juno.com and Councilmember Dalene Zender at (936) 661-3495 or dzender@hotmail.com are the principal contacts.

The Ward 2 Congress will be conducted at the Walker Education Center from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM on Thursday, September 14, 2006. Councilmember Mac Woodward at (936) 294-3931 or macwoodward@sbcglobal.net and Councilmember Melissa Mahaffey at (936) 295-3486 or mtcycle@hotmail.com are the principal contacts.

The Ward 3 Congress will be conducted at the Greater Zion Baptist Church from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM on Thursday, September 21, 2006. Councilmember Clarence Griffin at (936) 662-0620 or cdgrifkat7@aol.com and Councilmember Mickey Evans at (936) 295-2068 or msevens@cox.net are the principal contacts.

The Ward 4 Congress will be conducted at Education Service Center, Region VI from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM on Thursday, September 28, 2006. Councilmember Bob Tavenner at (936) 295-5441 and Councilmember Jack Choate at (936) 435-0039 or jackchoate@hotmail.com are

the principal contacts.

In addition to City Connection, we will also be advertising the Ward Congress sessions through The Huntsville Item, KSAM-KHVL, SHSU Channel 7, the Chamber Briefing and the city web site.

Your attendance and participation in your respective Ward Congress is important to city council and the ongoing comprehensive planning process. So, please mark your calendars and plan on attending and sharing your thoughts and feelings about Huntsville's future.

shamrick@huntsvilletx.gov

NEW GRAPHICS FOR HUNTSVILLE PD VEHICLES

You may have noticed a difference in the look of some of the Huntsville Police Department patrol cars. The officers researched several different graphics packages and decided upon a simpler, cleaner look for the cars. In addition, you may have noticed new LED light bars on some of our cars. These light bars are sleeker and brighter than the previous models.

These light bars last much longer than the previous ones because they have no bulbs or

gears that have to be replaced. The new graphics and light bars have been placed on the six new patrol cars

fitted with the new graphics in the near future and as the old light bars wear out, they will be replaced



the City Council granted the Police Department for FY 05-06. The rest of the fleet will be out-

with the newer LED version. Upon receiving the new cars, the Department was able to

implement the take home car policy that was approved by Council in February. Eligible officers who reside within the City or the extra territorial jurisdiction of the City of Huntsville have been assigned patrol cars. These officers are able to drive the vehicles to and from work and while off duty according to departmental guidelines. The additional patrol vehicles on the road and in the neighborhoods can help to deter crime and improve response to citizens' needs.

jsanders@huntsvilletx.gov



It's That Time Again !

HISD School Starts, Thursday, August 10th

Several times every year, the Huntsville Police Department's School Resource Officer section strives to remind the public that school buses are traveling the roadways with a priceless cargo. It's that time again.

With the school year beginning Thursday, August 10th, school buses will once again be delivering children to and from school in the mornings and afternoons. I want to encourage all drivers to exercise an extra measure of caution and watchfulness beginning August 10th. Watch for school buses that are stopping to load or unload children. The buses stop at the bus stops about the same time each day, so keep that in mind as you drive. The buses run their routes in the mornings between about 6:00am and 8:00am, between about 10:30am and 12:30pm, and again between 3:00pm and 6:00pm.

As much as I have tried to get it out there to the community, we have still had quite a few instances of drivers passing school buses that are stopped to unload children with their red lights

flashing.

Drivers approaching a school bus with its red lights activated are required to STOP and remain stopped until the red lights are deactivated. Most school buses are also equipped with a stop sign that extends outward from the area of the driver's window. The law applies to drivers approaching the bus from the front or the rear. If the school bus is on a multi-laned highway separated by a physical barrier, such as a median or concrete dividers, then only the drivers approaching from the rear on the same roadway must stop. The drivers on the opposite roadway are not required to stop in such circumstances. The fine for passing a school bus while it is loading or unloading children can be up to \$1000.

Drive safely, and stop for school buses loading and unloading children.

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Police/Fire Statistics June

Police:

- Calls for service: 3458
- Arrest made: 109
- Accidents investigated: 59
- Animal Control complaints investigated: 91

Fire:

- Calls for service: 93
- Main alarm calls: 21

Here are some suggestions to follow when using mosquito repellents:

- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants outdoors during peak mosquito activity time periods and spray outer clothing.
- Apply repellent sparingly only to exposed skin.
- Keep repellents away from eyes, nostrils and lips. Do not inhale or ingest repellents or get them in the eyes.
- Avoid applying high-concentration (>30% DEET) products to the skin, particularly of children. 10% DEET is recommended for children.
- Avoid applying repellents to portions of children's hands that are likely to have contact with their eyes or mouth.
- Pregnant and nursing women should minimize use of repellents.
- Never use repellents on wounds or irritated skin. Use repellent sparingly; one application will last approximately 4-6 hours. Saturation does not increase effectiveness.
- Wash repellent-treated skin after coming indoors.

If a suspected reaction to insect repellents occurs, wash treated skin, and call a physician.

What You Should Know about



MOSQUITOES!

Protecting you and your home

Take the repellent container to the physician.

Steps Home-owners Should Take To Protect Their Homes:

1. Dispose of plastic containers, cans, old tires, buckets, unused plastic swimming pools or other containers that collect and hold water outdoors. Do not allow water to accumulate in bird baths, plant trays or pet dishes for more than 2-3 days.
2. Clean debris from rain gutters and remove any standing water under or around structures or on flat roofs. Check around faucets and air conditioner units and repair leaks and eliminate puddles that remain for a few days.
3. Maintain the water in swimming pools and stock ornamental ponds or animal feeding troughs with top feeding minnows or goldfish.
4. Fill or drain puddles, ditches, swampy areas and either remove, drain or fill tree holes and stumps with cement. Use an over-the-counter larvacide

in stagnant water that cannot be drained to consume mosquito larvae.

5. Eliminate seepage from sewage leaks by repairing broken pipes.
6. Check for trapped water in plastic or canvas tarps used to cover boats, pools, etc. Arrange the tarp to drain the water.
7. Check around your own construction sites or do-it-yourself improvements to ensure that there is proper grading to prevent drainage problems.
8. Irrigate lawns and gardens properly to drain and prevent water from standing for days.
9. Use an over-the-counter mosquito/fly/gnat insecticide spray on porches and around door entrances to keep out flying adult mosquitoes.
10. Repair screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquito entry. Windows left open during evening hours need screens installed.

IN CLOSING:

Mosquitoes start life as aquatic creatures and prefer to breed in still, almost stagnant, bodies of water. But being tiny

creatures, they don't need lots of space for egg laying -- usually, even the tiniest pool of standing water will suffice. A shallow puddle, a tire swing, an infant's pool, a bird bath, a crook in a tree, an empty bucket or an old tin can are just a few examples of potential mosquito hatcheries.

As a result, one of the best preventive measures you can take is to eliminate as many of their breeding sites as possible. This will make your lawn less attractive to mating adults, and thus significantly reduce both the adult and pre-adult (or larval) population. In general, the less junk you have lying around -- and therefore waiting to collect rainwater-- the less inviting your property will be to the egg-laying females that inflict bites and possibly transmit disease.

This article was brought to you by



Health Inspections

Division

rslovin@huntsvilletx.gov

AABC Stan Musial World Series 2006

August 17— August 20

**All-Day General Admission:
\$6.00**

**See as Many as Four Games
with One Ticket at Bearkat
Stadium or Kate Barr Ross
Park**

Day Games - Night Games

**(Check your Ticket
for Game Times and Venue)**

**Tickets available at City Hall
City Service Center and
Chamber of Commerce**

City Calendar

August

15 City Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

September

5 City Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

7 **HHCP Ward 1 Congress** @ Walker Education Center from 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

14 **HHCP Ward 2 Congress** @ Walker Education Center from 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

19 City Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

21 **HHCP Ward 3 Congress** @ Greater Zion Baptist Church from 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

28 **HHCP Ward 4 Congress** @ Education Service Center, Region VI from 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Visit www.huntsvilletx.gov for a complete/current calendar of events



"Guns N Hoses" Blood Drive



Thursday, August 17th

The Huntsville Fire Department and the Huntsville Police Department will be helping the City of Huntsville sponsor a blood drive on **August 17, 2006 7:00 AM – 2:30 PM**. There will be two Gulf Coast Blood Mobiles at the Fire Station located on Sam Houston Ave. between Taco Bell and Jack-n-the-Box and appropriately named Guns N Hoses Blood Drive. Gulf Coast Blood Center will be giving free pints of Blue Bell ice cream to everyone and Guns N Hoses t-shirts to all donors. Blood supply always runs critically low during holidays and with the Labor Day Holiday fast approaching blood becomes a vital tool in saving lives. The City would like to invite all citizens who are able to donate blood please attend the Guns N Hoses blood drive at the Fire Station on August 17, 2006. bsmith@huntsvilletx.gov

FREE DISPOSAL OF YARD WASTE TRIMMINGS

The City of Huntsville is offering free yard waste trimming disposal at the City of Huntsville's disposal site located at 590 IH 45 North, Monday through Saturday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Any City of Huntsville residential utility customer who pays a garbage bill and brings a copy of their utility bill may dump their yard waste trimmings for free. The yard waste trimmings must be clean of all debris and not bagged when dumping into the City's yard waste pile. No limbs larger than six (6) inches in diameter will be accepted for free disposal.

If you have any questions pertaining to the free yard waste trimmings disposal, please call the Solid Waste Services Division at 936-294-5723.

cblaylock@huntsvilletx.gov

Water Capital Improvements Update

In an effort to improve customer service, the Public Services Division has identified 16 water lines that have been frequent maintenance problems and have a history of causing service interruptions. The replacement of these lines was assigned to the Capital Improvements Crew (CIP

crew), which does all the construction and, once installation is completed, to a maintenance crew which will reconnect all the customers to the new water line.

The CIP Crew recently completed construction on Cottonwood, Dairy Farm Road, and Mes-

quite. These projects where 6" waterlines that replaced undersized 2" lines, these new lines will also provide better fire protection in those areas. To date the CIP crew has completed 10 of the 16 projects. The next major construction area will be Avenue B, C and 16th Street. These ar-

eas will see an improvement in pressure with the installation of the new lines.

The projects are on schedule, and if all goes well every project will be completed September 30.

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